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Agriculture

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FRANKLINIA

MAGNOLIA

HOLLY

AND

BLUEBERRY

PLANTS



FRANKLINIA

Franklinia altamaha

Gordonia altamaha; *G. Altamaha*; *G. pubescens*

This exquisite, fall flowering tree was brought in 1777 from the banks of the Altamaha River in Georgia to Bartram's garden at Philadelphia. John Bartram, recognizing its extraordinary beauty and value, named it in honor of his life-long, dear friend, Benjamin Franklin.

The original grove of Franklin trees was again visited in 1790, but from that day to this no one has seen these trees growing in the wild though many expeditions have searched the banks of the Altamaha for it. All known specimens of the *Franklinia* are descended from the seeds of the little plant brought to Philadelphia a century and a half ago in an overloaded saddle bag.

Franklin's tree is rarely beautiful in detail and marvelous in landscape effect besides blooming at a season when few shrubs or trees are in flower.

The slender trunk and graceful branches are so muscular and sinewy in appearance that one almost expects motion as under a greyhound's satin skin. The bark is smooth and dark gray, with wavering lengthwise markings of lighter color.

Each twig develops at its tip a cluster of buds of graduated size, like overgrown greenish pearls. Early in August the largest of these attain the size of marbles. Then the guard petal folds back, still retaining its firm spherical form. From its shelter emerge four other petals, satiny, snowy white, elaborately frilled and pleated. The snowy, frilly chalice, three inches in diameter, holds a sumptuous mass of orange gold stamens and breathes forth a delicate, balmy fragrance.

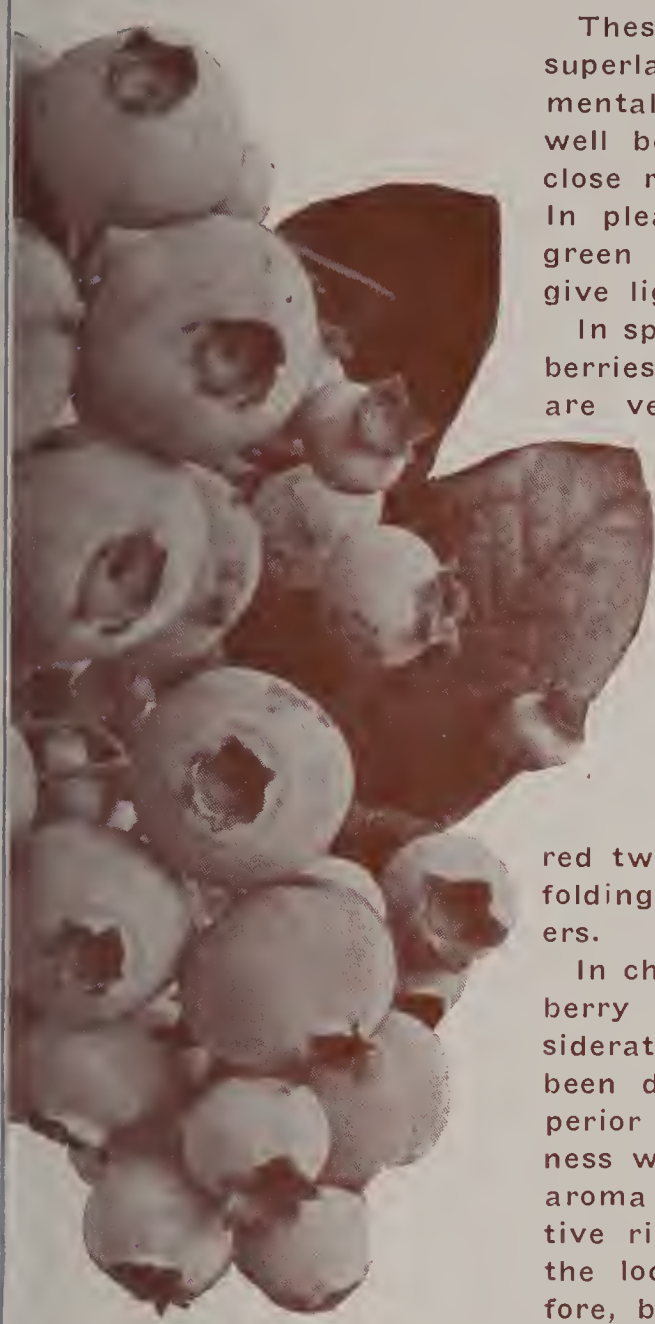
Each flower lasts two or three days and then drops cleanly. There is a constant succession of bloom till hard frost. We frequently get the unusual effect of a tree clad in crimson autumn foliage and abundantly starred with white flowers.

The *Franklinia* begins blooming when not more than three or four feet high. Young trees under favorable conditions increase in height a foot or more each season. Specimens thirty feet high are known. It develops naturally with several trunks, but may easily be trained to a single trunk by removing the sprouts which start from the base.

Franklinia prefers full sun and has proven entirely hardy about New York and hardy in favorable locations about Boston. It is an especially desirable tree for the small intimate garden, loved and lived in. It is a charming lawn tree and the grass may be allowed to grow closely about its trunk. It also thrives when planted by pools, lakes and streams. Its light elegance of form and color contrasts exquisitely with the dark green of conifers.

Prices are given on the Order-Sheet.

CULTIVATED BLUEBERRIES



These blueberry plants are a source of superlatively fine fruit, but also are ornamental shrubs of rare beauty. They may well be used in association with their close relatives, laurel and rhododendron. In pleasant contrast to the rich, ever-green masses of the latter blueberries give lightness, grace and color.

In spring the dainty new leaves of blueberries with their pinky, bronze tones are very lovely. Even more charming are the carmine-tipped buds and myriads of waxy, white flower bells. The berries, at first green flushed with pink on the sunny side then ripening to a lovely soft blue, are exceedingly beautiful till past midsummer. To no foliage does autumn bring a more glorious and lasting crimson. When the gorgeous leaves drop there remain all winter bright

red twigs, knobby with the fat buds enfolding the promise of next spring's flowers.

In choosing the varieties the size of the berry was naturally an important consideration. As much care, however, has been devoted to securing plants of superior vigor, hardiness and productiveness with fruit of superlative flavor, fine aroma and delightful texture. The relative ripening time of the varieties with the locality and the season can, therefore, be only approximately indicated.

Description of Varieties

RUBEL. A vigorous, productive variety. Well developed bushes stand six feet high or more and the winter color of the young wood is a rich red. The large berries of fine blue color are usually ready to pick the second week in July.

PIONEER. A very fine variety. The bushes are stocky, seldom exceeding four feet in height, with a tendency to be broad rather than high. The stems are stout and stiff, and the winter color of the young growth is a delightful red. Pioneer produces heavy crops of berries of a medium blue color and fine flavor. They are somewhat larger than Rubel and a few days earlier in ripening.

CABOT. The earliest variety. Plants seldom exceed three feet in height and make a broad low bush. The color of the new growth in winter is a light red over olive. The large berries have a delicious sub acid flavor.

RANCOCAS. The bush of slender, vigorous, upright habit rarely surpasses five feet in height. The winter twigs are a dark red. The berries are somewhat larger than those of Rubel and begin to ripen several days earlier.

CONCORD. The bush is of upright habit and at maturity exceeds six feet in height. The young growth is bright red in winter. The berries are large, frequently reaching three-quarters of an inch in diameter. They usually ripen a few days earlier than Rubel and are fine in flavor and appearance.

JERSEY. The bush is of vigorous habit and grows very large. The winter color of the young growth is a light red over golden brown. The berries are the largest of any here listed, are of a very light blue color and ripen about the same time as Rubel.

JUNE. A bush of slender, vigorous, upright habit with winter twigs of dark red. A very large and early berry.

CULTURAL SUGGESTIONS

Blueberries require an acid soil containing an abundance of peat or other partially rotted vegetable matter. They need a moderate supply of soil-moisture, and good drainage so that the roots can get air during the growing season.

Where natural Blueberry soil is not available in the garden, the right conditions can be created easily by mixing with the surface soil a liberal quantity of peaty material, such as acid peat, partially rotted leaves, pine-needles, saw-dust, or chip dirt from an old wood-pile. Peat-moss, which is now widely advertised, is also an excellent material for this purpose. If your soil is clay, the addition of sand will benefit it. If planted in a dry location, the plants should be kept mulched with leaves, straw, lawn-clippings, or peat-moss to conserve the moisture. This mulch should not be removed or dug into the soil, but left to rot in place, with fresh material added each year.

Space the plants about 3 feet apart if planted in a row. Setting the plants in beds 3 feet apart one way and 4 to 5 feet the other way has also been found satisfactory. At least two varieties should be included in every planting, as an exchange of pollen is necessary to produce good crops of berries.

Planting in the spring is recommended. Fall planting is equally satisfactory for shipment to near-by points.

The only pruning needed the second year is to remove the flower buds in order to throw the full strength of the plants into the top and roots. The third summer the flower buds may be left and the plants should produce a good crop of fruit. As the plants get older it is advisable to remove the twiggy growth and cut to the ground some of the older stems each year. Ordinarily stems 4 years old begin to lose their productiveness and produce smaller berries than the younger stems. The purpose of pruning is to remove these older stems in order to make room for young wood that will produce fruit of the finest quality.

Blueberry Plants Available in Three Sizes

Plants 10 to 12 inches high, with good balls of soil on the roots. These plants are pruned to about half this height before shipment. They should bear fruit the third summer (a little over two years) after planting.

Plants 15 to 18 inches high. These are shipped with large balls of soil on the roots and are burlapped and crated, pruned, ready to plant. Plants this size should bear fruit the second summer (a little over one year) after planting.

Specimen Blueberry plants for prompt fruit production or for landscape purposes. Extra-large root-balls, burlapped. This size usually delivered on purchasers' truck at our nursery. Pruned to give proper balance of foliage and fruit. Enough fruit-buds are left on the bushes to yield a moderate crop the first summer after planting.

Prices are given on the Order-Sheet.

GUARANTEE

We guarantee that our plants will reach you in first-class condition. If for any reason you are not satisfied, the plants may be returned within three days, and we will replace them or refund the money, as you prefer. We will replace without charge any plant which proves untrue to label.

HOLLY

(*Ilex Opaca*)

Holly, the beautiful, is almost universally known, loved and desired. It is dioecious, that is, the trees are either male or female. Only female or pistillate plants bear berries. They may have berries when no male tree is near, but the berries are larger, more abundant and remain on the trees longer if a male tree is nearby or is included in the planting to provide pollination.

The plants we offer are propagated from trees of superior vigor and beauty. They retain all the qualities of these choice trees. Holly from our nurseries, guaranteed as to sex, can be moved easily and safely. Our 18" plants usually bear berries the first year, the smaller sizes a year later.

Holly will grow well in sun or in light shade; in sand, clay or gravel; in locations inclined to be either dry or moist, but it resents any lime in the soil. It will do particularly well in light loam, well drained, but with a fair amount of moisture. Holly is native from Florida to Cape Cod and has proven hardy when moved to locations much colder.

Holly should be planted for a living, glowing Christmas tree by the door or anywhere that an exceptionally beautiful specimen is wanted. It would make a marvelous hedge, for it just loves to be vigorously pruned. Trees regularly clipped respond with increased beauty of foliage and greater abundance of berries. When pruned just before Christmas the clippings from your holly trees provide choice material for decorations.

When ordering please specify the number of each sex.

MAGNOLIA GLAUCA

(*Sweet Bay*)

This lovely bushy tree is native from Boston to Florida and west to Texas. Plants started in our nurseries with heavy roots thrive beautifully when transferred to high ground and to much heavier soils.

Sweet Bay naturally develops several stems from the base and grows into a symmetrical shrub of pointed, oval form, with the height more than twice as great as the breadth, thus making a beautiful specimen. Old trees lose their symmetry and become picturesque. They sometimes attain twenty feet in height.

The bark of vigorously growing young twigs remains green all winter; that of the trunks of mature trees is a charming silvery gray.

The flowers come abundantly as May gives way to June and occasionally through the summer. Creamy white and waxy, the petals open to form cups two and a half inches across. These spill a delightful, refreshing, aromatic fragrance which is unusually pervasive, a special joy when the tree grows close to the house; by the porch, for instance, or near the dining room windows.

Cone shaped seed pods an inch and a half long turn crimson in September, then open to reluctantly free, shining, scarlet seeds which for several days are held dangling by slender, white threads.

This magnolia has smooth, leathery, light green leaves, with silvery under sides. These are held, unchanged in hue to the very edge of winter. In October's symphony of color this pale, silvery green is a rare and delightful note. For this alone, *Magnolia glauca* should be freely planted to contrast with the autumn crimson of *Franklinia*, dogwoods, and other glowing deciduous plants and with the steadfast dark green of conifers.

Prices of Holly and of *Magnolia* are given on the Order-Sheet.